

constructing railroads in that State, for which he reported a single bill, embracing various propositions; which, on his motion, was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Olds from the Post Office Committee.

reference, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Upham explained that the committee reported a bill conferring the franking privilege on the Superintendent of the Coast Survey and his Assistant.

Mr. Jones moved to add the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute.

Mr. Olds was in favor of abolishing the franking privilege altogether.

Mr. McMeekin was in opposition. The Smithsonian Institution was designed to disseminate information, and should possess all possible facilities for that purpose.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, said the Smithsonian Institution was no part of the Government, and there could be no reason for conferring this privilege. It would be a bad precedent.

Mr. Upham explained that the Coast Survey often avails itself of this privilege, through the courtesy of the Department of the Interior, simply to relieve that Department of the burden of this duty. The Secretary of the Treasury had, in his financial report, recommended that the Government pay the people direct the great benefits from the franking privilege, as

measures were concurred in.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, moved an amendment, providing that the Second Auditor should ascertain the amount of private letters contained by these officers and troops, and pay the same.

Mr. Jones supported his amendment, and Mr. Johnson opposed it.

Mr. Shields said that the conduct of the officers who left their command on the wreck, rendered them liable to military inquiry, and subject of military inquiry, and he was unwilling to pay the losses of such men, until their conduct had been fully explained.

Mr. Jones withdrew his amendment, and the bill was passed.

The case of Mr. Phelps was taken up, and Mr. Jones addressed the Senate in support of the resolution. Mr. Phelps is a Senator from Vermont.

Mr. Phelps is entitled to retain his seat, as a Senator from Vermont.

Mr. Jones concluded, Mr. Ward rose to reply, when various suggestions were made as to the continuance of the debate at this time. Finally the matter was laid on the table, and the Senate proceeded to consider Executive business.

difficulties the diffusion of knowledge in a most admirable manner, and highly creditable to the Coast Survey and the National Observatory, with its collateral departments.

Mr. Mason withdrew his amendment relative to the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Bell went to the rear of the chamber and passed.

Mr. Hamilton, from the Committee on the District, reported a resolution to provide for the continuance of the work on the Washington Coast Survey, and was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Bissell, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the Senate resolution, authorizing the President of the United States to appoint as a Major, General, or Lieutenant Colonel military services, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The House then resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Orr in the chair.

Mr. Oliver, of Missouri, delivered a speech on that portion of the message relating to tonnage duties. He at first could not determine how to understand that portion of the message, and he had been told by a friend from South Carolina, who avowed the purpose of the President.

A change in the policy of the Government was alluded to, and the speaker asked the question whether? The unconstitutionality of a protective plan—a plan that had been sanctioned by the first Congress! The President had never been known to vote a dollar for the improvement of a harbor.

He now cast a burst of light upon the country—that which has been sanctioned by Washington and all the fathers of the Republic, and by the uniform practice of the country. The wisdom of the measure was not in question.

A communication was received from the Department of the Interior, asking for an appropriation of \$50,000 to defray the expenses incurred by the survey of the Mexican boundary; after the reading of which,

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, stated that the bill was the President's Message in Committee of the Whole, and he moved to suspend the day; that his colleague was entitled to the floor; and that, in order to enable that gentleman to give expression to his sentiments, he moved a resolution, that the President of the United States would forthwith resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole.

This motion was adopted, and (Mr. Orr being in the Chair)

Mr. Etheridge, of Tennessee, arose and addressed the Committee on the proposition to authorize the President of the United States to confer the rank of Lieutenant General by brevet on the late General Sherman.

Mr. E said no unconstitutional and no unprecedented honor was proposed to be conferred. He alluded to the many instances of the conferring of a Congressional vote, and the conferring of special honors in acknowledgment of meritorious services. And upon whom could a compliment be more appropriately conferred?

He then named no person as the recipient of this honor; and it had been suggested that the honor might be conferred upon another. He was willing to confide in the discretion of the Committee. Never had that high officer signed a commission in the discharge of duty, and he was not prepared to assure, that he would not then contemplated to be conferred upon Major General Scott.

men attempt to repudiate the well-tried policy. "Great God!" said the Speaker, "I feel humiliated."

But the present policy is irregular and vacillating. Whose fault is that? Man's fault must be imperfect. "God's only is perfect. But the imperfections is owing to the conduct of men."

The Whig party has always done its duty. Who now recommends tonnage duties is responsible for the imperfections of the plan. He never voted a dollar for an improvement. He never voted a dollar to give the people a head in when such a measure required his aid.

Politicians, statesmen, and sectionalism, had thwarted a good plan. The remedy proposed by the President, and supported by a distinguished Senator, is the only one that I can imagine they see. He named nobly; but they might know whom he meant. He was about so high, (showing how high,) and so broad, and so generous, that I am glad he had recommended tonnage duties to the Executive of his State.

He had read the speech and the letter of the gentleman, (whose dimensions he again described,) and he was here to request that I should show that they were untenable. It was assumed by that gentleman that tonnage duties were originally designed and looked to a purpose which to derive means of improving rivers and the commerce by the States, with the sanction of Congress.

If this were true, Congress might refuse to improve the rivers and harbors, and at the same time, to improve the commerce.

The power to regulate commerce was in the Constitution, and to improve rivers and har-

ports was contemplated by the resolution proposed, but it was not to originate from an unworthy prejudice. No such title could be conferred in this country; for no other nobility was here known than that which be- longed to individual character—a nobility which all delight in honoring.

Mr. E. spoke at length, recapitulating the many arguments in support of the measure: was warmly applauded.

The resolutions to refer the President's Message to the several committees on Commerce, and the Committee on Rivers, Harbors, and the resolutions were reported to the House, and forthwith adopted.

The House again resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the Deficiency Bill, Mr. Stanton, of Tennessee, in the chair.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia, said he was not in the House, but he said at present, but he felt constrained to do so.

He regretted to see the personal and political differences of the politicians of New York and Virginia in the House. A few years ago, the politicians of New York did not differ very widely on the issues now presented. They have of late divided.

Mr. Smith was proceeding to give a history of the New York and New York Democratic delegates in the Baltimore Convention in 1848, when Mr. Cutting arose, to correct his statement of facts.

Mr. Smith continued: The gentleman do not agree in their statements here. He in 1840 had supported Mr. Van Buren, only to grove for it in 1848. He had always believed that Van Buren was the man. Mr. Van Buren had originated the scheme in 1841.

present Secretary of State, and declared that, placed in like circumstances, Virginia would have done the same noble and faithful act. He commended the example of the New York is a great State, and has great aims, and should also learn to appreciate them.

He alluded to the sentiment expressed by Mr. Caldwell, that "the people of Maryland and a soft war that between an honest man and a rogue, and regretted its utterance."

A gentleman had here said that New York was not in sympathy. Why, then, is this controversy brought here? "We have nothing else to give.

Mr. Walsh said he wished not the sympathy of the Southern people, but of gentlemen in this House who were in sympathy with him. Hardis, as their actions on this floor indicated.

Mr. Smith then proceeded to review the condition of the country when Gen. Pierce came into office. The President threw the sticks in the Democratic camp, and attempted to ironize them. There had been unity, and he thought it might again exist. Was this not the highest obligation resting upon him? He would not say that the country, or not, Mr. S. would not say. But there was a difference between interfering between parties in a State and between different portions of the same State.

Being now asked, if the President had appointed John Van Buren Secretary of State, or if General Scott had been elected, and had appointed Mr. Seward, would Mr. S. have declined the office? He said he would not be the President? Or could he say whether Mr. John Van Buren had yet found time to read the Syracuse resolutions?

to wait for a bill from the House on that subject. He urged the propriety of the Senate expediting such an appropriation by originating a bill.

Mr. Hamlin responded, that the uniform rule has been to wait for such bills to come from the House. He did not know that the Senate had intended to depart from that rule at this time.

Mr. Badger said the Senate had the undoubted right to originate bills of such a character, and he hoped to see such a bill, however, the committee intended to report no amendment, that they would report one specially providing for the removal of obstructions in Cape Fear river.

Mr. Seward expressed himself favorable to be originating in the Senate of a River and Harbor bill.

Mr. Hunter reported back the bill making appropriations for the payment of invalid pensions for the year ending June 30, 1855, with an amendment.

The amendment was concurred in, and the bill passed.

Mr. Shields, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the House bill for the relief of the officers and troops on board the *Benjamin San Francisco* at the time of her discharge, with a committee report, which was adopted.

The amendments extended the relief to dishonored officers or seamen of the navy on board such steamer by orders, and provided that they should be paid the same as the crew of such subjects. [Laughter.] The Cabinet, he said, contains no Abolitionists now.

Mr. S. continued to defend the President's course, and was regarded as an unit. He said, "I am not a seceder. I am not a seceder. It would not be a glorious thing to secede. To heal the dissension, as had been attempted?"

The Sinks of New York are now under discussion. They will soon be brought to a test. The Harde will be the test. They cannot recede; no, not without sinking so low that the hand of reurrection cannot find them! [The Nebraska bill was here understood to be taken up.]

Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, here arose to order. The Compromise had been declared a failure, and the Slavery agitation was not to be again checked. The gentleman upon the floor was in the very act of reviving its controversies in this House.

Mr. Smith replied, tartly, that he was surprised to find a trick by a gentleman. He said he would place on the floor that gentleman from Ohio had tricked to see to a point of order, but had been guilty of a low, unworthy trick.

Mr. Campbell replied, that he would not yield, but attempted to reply, but Mr. Smith would not yield, but repeated his harsh expressions in exprobanding terms.

Mr. Campbell. Well, said, go on.

Mr. Evans said *he* had asked the gentleman a question or two, but would be more guarded hereafter.

Mr. Smith said, courteously, that Mr. Evans